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Message Text

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64
ACTION EB-11

INFO OCT-01 EUR-25 ISO-00 CAB-09 CIAE-00 COME-00 DODE-00

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R 031929Z DEC 73
FM AMEMBASSY BONN
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 9041
USMISSION BERLIN
INFO AMEMBASSY LONDON
AMEMBASSY PARIS

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E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS; ETRN, GW
SUBJECT; CIVAIR: FREELANDIA TRAVEL CLUB INTEREST IN
FLIGHTS TO BERLIN; FUEL SHORTAGES

REF; (A) BONN 8060, JUNE 8, 1972, (B) STATE 93934, MAY
26, 1972, (C) BONN 17315

1. MR. JOHN DENNETT, REPRESENTING THE FREELANDIA TRAVEL CLUB OF LOS ANGELES, CALLED AT THE EMBASSY ON NOVEMBER 23 TO INFORM US THAT FREELANDIA WOULD IN THE NEAR FUTURE APPLY TO THE CAA'S FOR SEVERAL FLIGHTS FROM US POINTS TO WEST BERLIN. THE FLIGHTS WOULD CARRY ABOUT 150 PASSENGERS EACH AND WOULD USE WEST BERLIN AS THE STARTING POINT FOR TOURS OF EASTERN EUROPE.

2. BASED ON THE STRONGLY NEGATIVE POSITION THE BRITISH AND FRENCH TOOK LAST YEAR TOWARD CLUB INTERNATIONAL, WE WOULD EXPECT SOME DIFFICULTY IN REACHING TRIPARTITE AGREEMENT IN CLEARING THESE FLIGHTS. BEFORE RAISING THE MATTER WITH THE OTHER CAA'S, WE BELIEVE IT WOULD BE HELPFUL TO HAVE AS MUCH INFORMATION ABOUT FREELANDIA'S
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OPERATIONS AS POSSIBLE, PARTICULARLY AS REGARDS ANY

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PROBLEMS WITH THE CAB SIMILAR TO CLUB INTERNATIONAL'S.

3. ASIDE FROM THE QUESTION OF THE BONA FIDES OF FREELANDIA, THE EXPECTED APPLICATION RAISES A DIFFERENT QUESTION WITH RESPECT TO CURRENT AVIATION FUEL SITUATION IN BERLIN. WITH PAN AM REDUCING ITS SCHEDULED IGS SERVICES BECAUSE OF SHORTAGES REFTEL C, EMBASSY BELIEVES THAT BERLIN FUEL SUPPLIES SHOULD BE MADE AVAILABLE IN THE FIRST INSTANCE TO SCHEDULED AND SUPPLEMENTAL CARRIERS CUSTOMARILY SERVING WEST BERLIN. THIS QUESTION IS UNDER CONTINUING DISCUSSION AMONG THE CAA'S AND WE WOULD EXPECT THAT FUEL AVAILABILITY AT BERLIN WILL BE AN INCREASINGLY IMPORTANT FACTOR IN THE CONSIDERATION OF APPLICATIONS FROM CARRIERS NOT PREVIOUSLY INVOLVED WITH BERLIN, PARTICULARLY WHERE THERE IS A POSSIBILITY OF MULTIPLE FLIGHTS.

4. ACTION REQUESTED: (A) AVAILABLE BACKGROUND INFORMATION RE THE FREELANDIA AIR TRAVEL CLUB WOULD APPRECIATED. (B) THE DEPARTMENT'S VIEWS ON THE DESIRABILITY OF THE CAA'S SUPPORTING APPLICATIONS FOR OPERATIONS SUCH AS FREELANDIA PROPOSES FROM THE VIEWPOINT OF THE TIGHT FUEL SITUATION IN BERLIN.
HILLENBRAND

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